

**City of Northampton, MA**  
**Transportation and Parking Commission**

March 15, 2022

**MEETING MINUTES**

Submitted by: Beth A. Kaplowitt

1. DPW Director Donna LaScaleia called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and announced that there would be audio/video recording of this virtual meeting.

**Members present and absent/introductions:**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Time if arriving late or leaving early</b>
Donna LaScaleia, DPW Director, Chair	X	
Jody Kasper, Chief of Police, Vice Chair	X	
Wayne Feiden, Director of Planning and Sustainability	X	
Nanci Forrestall, Parking Enforcement Administrator	X	
Jamila Gore, City Councilor At Large	X	
Karen Foster, Ward 2 City Councilor	X	
Adam Novitt, Citizen	X	
Jami Albro-Fisher, Citizen	X	Arrived at 4.:24 p.m.
Diana Day, Citizen	X	
Vacant, Citizen	Absent	
<b>Advisor</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Time if arriving late or leaving early</b>
Maggie Chan, DPW Traffic Engineer	X	
<b>Staff</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Time if arriving late or leaving early</b>
Cyndi Quinn, DPW Administration Manager	X	
Beth A. Kaplowitt, Principal Account Clerk	X	

2. **Public comment**

- Liz Burnworth of Florence Street in Leeds is concerned about vehicles speeding past children near/in the crosswalk at Florence Street and Arch Street. She would like to see appropriate signage as well as a speed hump installed.

3. **Approval of minutes from previous meeting (s): February 23, 2022**

- A motion was proposed and seconded and a roll call vote was taken. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To approve the minutes from the February 23, 2022 meeting.	Wayne Feiden	Nanci Forrestall	Yes, 6 No, 0 Abstain, 2

#### **4. Reports from departments and subcommittees/announcements/presentations**

- Department of Public Works (DPW) – Director Donna LaScaleia
  - The 2021 DPW paving project will resume in the spring;
  - The list of streets for the pavement marking contract is in the works. This will include center lines, edge lines, crosswalks, turn arrows, and more;
  - The City has contracted with Premier Fence LLC to install or replace guardrails at multiple locations on Arch Street, Chesterfield Road, Kennedy Road, and Sylvester Road. Work is anticipated to start in Spring 2022;
  - There are several ongoing MassDOT projects on King Street, Damon Road, and Route 5. Any questions about those projects should be directed to MassDOT District 2.
- Department of Planning and Sustainability – Director Wayne Feiden
  - Many of the projects discussed previously will start under construction this spring:
    - ❖ Laurel Street sidewalks;
    - ❖ New PVTA bus stop opposite the post office;
    - ❖ New sidewalks at the parklet at 109 Main Street;
    - ❖ New sidewalk ramps and trees on Main Street in Florence;
    - ❖ Traffic calming and new crosswalk at South Main/Main Street in Florence;
    - ❖ Leonard Street/Haydenville Road intersection traffic calming.
- Councilor Nash has been in contact with State Representative Lindsay Sabadosa about the crosswalk at Bridge Street by Day Avenue and it will be line striped in the spring by MassDOT.

#### **5. Matters before the Commission**

- a) 2021 Annual Traffic Safety Report
  - Chief Kasper gave an overview of her report:
    - ❖ The 1,500+ citations issued in 2021 indicate a downward trend over the last few years;
    - ❖ Although OUI-Drugs represent a small number of instances, they do show a big percentage increase over the last three years. The department now has officers who have received extra training regarding the identification of signs of different types of drug addiction;
    - ❖ Collisions show a downward trend over a couple of decades;
    - ❖ Most grants that the department has received are state funded;
    - ❖ A Directed Traffic Enforcement program was implemented in October of 2021 in which covert speed limit data is used to identify roadways of concern regarding different infractions in order to send available traffic enforcement officers there;
- b) Discussion of Traffic Calming Request for Middle Street
  - This request was received last summer. The concern is speeding in the area and the lack of 30 mph speed limit signs;
  - Director LaScaleia gave an overview of engineering characteristics of the street and Chief Kasper reviewed the speed and collision data that was collected, which did not indicate a speeding problem;
  - During the comment period, Middle Street area residents Dennis Desmond, Elaine Tiboni, Sally Ekus, and Erin DeCou all said that they would like to see the speed limit

lowered to 20 mph. They feel that residents drive more slowly, but others go much faster than the current 30 mph speed limit;

- Councilors Nash and Jarrett would like to see a holistic approach to speed throughout the City, leading to slower driving speeds everywhere;
- Director LaScaleia explained the process for review, discussion and implementation of speed limit changes. She also spoke about the Municipal Modernization Act which was implemented a few years ago. It gives municipalities more latitude to implement 25 mph speed limits in thickly settled areas that do not already have regulatory speed limit signs. Middle Street happens to be one of the very few areas in the City where it applies;
- There was a discussion of cut through streets, chicane parking and other potential traffic calming measures that might be appropriate for the area;
- Director LaScaleia said that the next steps will involve doing a more thorough analysis to solve the problems in this area and that this will be communicated with the stakeholders.

c) Discussion of Traffic Calming Request for Spring Street

- This request was received last summer. The concern is speeding in the area;
- Chief Kasper presented collision and speed data that showed that there is a speed problem – many vehicles are going up to 10 mph over the speed limit. The PD has directed that the area be on the Directed Traffic Enforcement program;
- Councilor Foster asked if youth sports at Florence Fields might be affecting the data between 5 - 7:00 p.m. and Chief Kasper agreed that it might be a factor;
- Director LaScaleia said that the DPW had done the best they could in this “country road scenario” when Spring Street was resurfaced given the restrictions due to the limited width of the street.

d) Discussion of Traffic Calming Request for Hawley Street

- This request was submitted November 11, 2021 and the concern was that the view of drivers on Butler Place is obstructed by a street tree and a parking zone when they are preparing to turn onto Hawley Street;
- Councilor Nash & Director LaScaleia discussed the nature of the intersection. It is more of a wide radius curve than a 90 degree turn. They feel that the removal of one parking space on Hawley would not cause a hardship and would improve the visibility to the left as cars are turning onto Hawley Street from Butler Place;
- The DPW will take some field measurements and bring a proposed Ordinance back to TPC next month to address these comments.

e) Discussion of Parking Request for Riverside Drive

- This request was submitted September 30, 2021 and the concern is that the many drop-offs and pick-ups at 221 Riverside Drive create safety problems. The request is that the addition of some parking prohibitions could improve visibility and therefore safety during these times;
- Councilors Jarrett and Foster discussed the issues and Councilor Jarrett agreed to do some outreach to Nonotuck Community School and area residents before this request comes back to the TPC.

## 6. New Business

- None.

**7. Adjourned at 5:06 p.m.**

- A motion was proposed and seconded and a roll call vote was taken. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
Adjourn.	Karen Foster	Jody Kasper	Yes, 9 No, 0 Abstain, 0